

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 061436Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3290

AMEMASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 0099

KUWAIT PLEASE PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SA US QA TC MU BA KU IZ IR YE

SUBJECT: SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON GULF AFFAIRS

SUMMARY: IN DISCUSSION ON GULF AFFAIRS JAN 3, SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER FAVORED FORMAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENT AMONG GULF STATES, COMMENTED ON SAUDI/PDRY RELATIONS, AND OUTLINED SAUDI VIEWS ON IRAQ, IRAN, ABU DHABI, QATAR AND BAHRAIN. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING JAN 3 CALL ON SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER PRINCE SAUD BY CHARGE AND VISITING AMBASSADOR PAGANELLI, CONVERSATION WAS PARTIALLY DEVOTED TO GULF AFFAIRS.

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2. DISCUSSION INCLUDED FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

A) GULF SECURITY: SAUD INDICATED THAT SAG FAVORED AN EVENTUAL FORMAL ARRANGEMENT FOR SECURITY CO-ORDINATION AND COOPERATION AMONG GULF STATES. HE SAID SUCH ARRANGEMENT SHOULD HAVE TWO MAIN BASES: FIRST, AGREEMENT BY ALL PARTIES FOR NONINTERFERENCE IN EACH OTHER'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND, SECOND, REMOVAL OF GREAT POWER RIVALRY AND HENCE GREAT POWER PRESENCE FROM GULF AREA. IN CONNECTION WITH LATTER POINT, SAUD ASSERTED THAT BOTH SOVIETS AND U.S. MUST GO. ACCORDING SAUD, THERE WAS NO THREAT OF OUTSIDE AGGRESSION AGAINST GULF STATES AND THAT THEY COULD BY THEMSELVES ASSURE INTERNATIONAL INTEREST IN FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION IN AREA. HE SAID THREAT TO GULF STATES WAS FROM INTERNAL SUBVERSION AND THEY SHOULD BE CAPABLE OF HANDLING THIS PROBLEM AMONG THEMSELVES. SAUD NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A NUMBER OF INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON GULF SECURITY AMONG CONCERED FOREIGN MINISTERS ON THE FRINGES OF UNGA, ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE, ETC., AND EXPRESSED HOPE THERE WOULD BE ADDITIONAL INTEREST IN SECURITY AND STABILITY OF PRESENT GULF REGIMES. AS EXAMPLE, HE NOTED SAG'S CONCERN ABOUT BAHRAIN RIOTS SEVERAL YEARS AGO. HOWEVER, HE AVOIDED COMMENTING ON SUGGESTION THAT SAG SAW ITSELF AS ACTIVE GUARANTOR OF STABILITY OF GULF REGIMES.

B) PDRY: SAUD ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SAG WORKING TO MODERATE PDRY'S RADICALISM, BUT OBSERVED THAT INTERNAL PROBLEMS IN PDRY COMPLICATED THIS EFFORT. HE CLEARLY STATED, HOWEVER, THAT SAUDI AID TO ADEN REGIME WOULD DEPEND ON PRIOR PERFORMANCE, SUCH AS ENDING SUPPORT FOR DHOFARI REBELS. HE SAID SAUDIS DO NOT PRT NOT AGREE WITH KUWAITI POLICY OF GIVING AID FIRST IN EFFORT TO WEAN PDRY AWAY FROM SOVIET INFLUENCE AND TO DETER IT FROM MAKING MISCHIEF IN AREA. HE QUIPPED THAT IF KUWAIT HAD PURSUED SIMILAR FORWARD POLICY IN DISPUTE WITH IRAQ (WHICH, HE SAID, AMOUNTED TO GIVING IRAQIS EVERYTHING THEY WANTED), PERHAPS KUWAIT-IRAQ PROBLEM WOULD HAVE BEEN RESOLVED BY

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NOW. IN THIS CONTEXT HE INDICATED THERE LITTLE MOVEMENT ON IRAQ-KUWAIT BORDER PROBLEM.

C) IRAQ: SAUD PROFESSED THATSAUDIS HAD NO PROBLEM WITH IRAQ'S POSTURE AS GULF POWER. HE NOTED THAT SAUDI-IRAQI BORDER PROBLEM HAD BEEN QUICKLY SOLVED AFTER YEARS OF FESTERING BY APPARENTLY CHAGED IRAQI ATTITUDES. HE SAID SAUDIS HAD TOLD IRAQIS

THAT WORST POSSIBLE THING FOR SAUDI-IRAQI RELATIONS WOULD BE IF SAUDI ARABIA WENT BAATHI. HE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT SAG HAD NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT IRAQIS AND WAS WATCHING THEM CAREFULLY.

D) IRAN: ACCORDING SAUD, SAG HAS NO FEAR OF POSSIBILITY OF IRANIAN AGGRESSION IN GULF AREA, ALTHOUGH HE MENTIONED THAT SEIZURE OF TUMBS AND ABU MUSA WERE RESIDUAL PROBLEM. SAUD STATED THAT SHAH HAD TOLD SAUDIS THAT HIS LARGE ARMAMENT PURCHASES WERE DESIGNED ONLY TO DETER EVERYTHING SHORT OF A NUCLEAR ATTACK FROM SOVIETS, AND SAUDIS BELIEVED THIS.

E) ABU DHABI: SAUD STATED THAT THERE WERE NO IMPLEMENTED HE SAID WORK ON BORDER DELINEATION NOW IN PROCESS, AND THAT RECENT VISIT OF PRINCE FAHD TO UAE DESIGNED TO GIVE MOMENTUM TO IMPLEMENTATION OF BORDER AGREEMENT, AS WELL AS TO HELP WITH INTERNAL PROBLEMS AMONG EMIRATES.

F) QATAR/BAHRAIN: IN RESPONSE TO QUERY RE LACK OF HIGH-LEVEL SAUDI VISIT TO QATAR WHILE SAUDI PRINCIPALS HAVE BEEN ALL OVER AREA MAP, SAUD RESPONDED THAT HIGH-LEVEL VISITS TOOK PLACE TO SOLVE BILATERAL PROBLEMS, AND, SINCE THERE NONE OF THESE WITH QATAR, THERE HAD BEEN NO VISIT, AND THIS UNDERSTOOD BY BOTH PARTIES. RE QATAR-BAHRAIN DISPUTE OVER KWAR ISLAND, SAUD OBSERVED THAT BOTH SIDES HAVE ASSUMED RIGID POSITIONS. HE AVOIDED CONFIRMING SAUDI MEDIATING ROLE IN THIS DISPUTE.
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